

## BALLARAT NEWS

**A Plenary Council** - The Catholic Church in Australia has commenced preparations for a Plenary Council to be held in 2020. The Plenary Council is a journey, as well as an event, with the focus being on the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. Such a journey has change associated with it, requiring us to have the courage to let some things go and imagine new ways, allowing ourselves to be led by a God who dislocates. "The journey of the Plenary Council will be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it must be an act of faith" says Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the chairperson of the organizing committee. Two catalysts for this Plenary Council of the Church in Australia (the first since 1937) are the pontificate of Pope Francis and the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to child sexual abuse. The emphasis by Pope Francis on the cooperative nature that should mark the whole Church and the Royal Commission's recognition that the Church has not been the Church that it is supposed to be can both be accepted as grace. In the latter part of 2018 and into 2019, there will be gatherings at the local and regional levels of the Diocese that will give opportunities for dialogue.

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## Parishes of St Columba's and Our Lady Help of Christians

Communities of Ballarat North, Learmonth, Lexton, Miners Rest, Waubra, Wendouree



306 Gregory St, Ballarat North Phone: 0417 168 716

480a Gillies Street, P O Box 192 Wendouree Phone: 5339 2302

Email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: wendouree@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

Parish Web: ballarat.catholic.org.au (Select parish)

School Web: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

School Web: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au

Presbytery: Phone 5332 4324

School Phone: 5339 4726

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante

Visiting Priest: Fr Barry Ryan

Staff at St Columba's

Pastoral Associate: Judith O'Sullivan

Parish Secretary: Ruth Marquand

Wed & Fri 9-2pm, Thurs 9-1pm.

Staff at Wendouree

Parish Co-ordinator: Maree Roache

Wed-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Exodus Community: 5338 2118

Safeguarding Officers:

St Columba's: Peter Marquand  
OLHC: Maree Roache

Mass times: St Columba's

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

Wednesday: 9:30 am

Mass times: Wendouree

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am Rural

10:00 am OLHC

New Year's Day Mass—Jan 1st:

9:00 am at OLHC

Readings for next weekend:

Gen 15: 1-6, 21:1-3

Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9

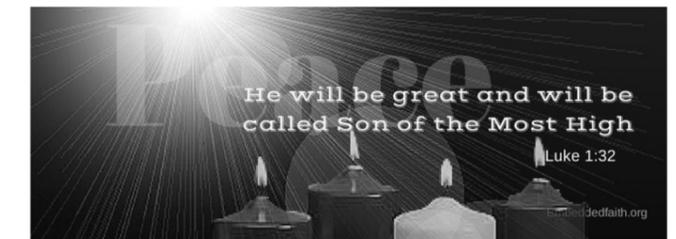
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40



## 24th December, 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Focus on the Scriptures



St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'  
© Fr Michael Tate

**Responsorial Psalm:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

**Recently Deceased:** We commend to God:

**Anniversaries: We remember:** Kathleen Myers . James Watson, Les Jackson., Maisie Lamb, Colin Storey. Georgie Grano, Brian Andersen, Stephen Haintz, Kerin Graham

**We pray:** for the sick of our Parishes especially Blake Dridan (pupil at St Columba's School) , Margaret Holmes, Michael Fitzpatrick, Peter Huxtable (brother of Linley von Bibra), Fr Frank Smith and for all those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness or loneliness.

**ST COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWS**



*We wish you all a very blessed  
and holy Christmas,  
and all God's richest blessings  
for 2018*

**The office** will be closed from Thursday 21st December at 1pm until 9am Wednesday 25 January. For any urgent matters please call Fr Marcello Phone 5332 4324.

**Thank you** We would like to thank all the co-ordinators and leaders of groups in the Parish. Without you, a lot of what happens in the Parish just would not happen. So often you serve behind the scenes or without a thought of thanks. But, please be assured we appreciate all that you do.

**Notice sheets & rosters** Over January please be aware of any vacancies to rostered ministries. If you are there and can help, please do so. It would be greatly appreciated. There will be notice sheets and Living Word reflections in the foyer for each weekend over the holiday period. They will contain the current weekend roster. Rosters also on notice board

**Wednesday Masses** at 9.30am will continue through the holiday period. Many thanks to Fr Dan for your ministry in the Parish.

**Advertisers** We take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their ongoing support of St Columba's Parish. We encourage you to use their products and/or services during the year.

**Bishops Christmas Appeal** There will be an opportunity to contribute to the Bishops Christmas Appeal after Communion during the Christmas Masses, otherwise money for this appeal can be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Bishops Appeal" can be left on the collection plate. Thank you in advance.

**Thank you**—We extend a warm and heart filled thank you to long serving parishioner Helen McBrearty who has recently stepped down from her involvement on the Parish Finance Committee after many years of service. We are very grateful for all that Helen has done for our parish over many years and are pleased that she will continue to co-ordinates the Counting of a weekend and also the Parish Lawn Mowing Roster.

<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	891.00
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up keep of Parish)	\$	1439.50 Average for this financial year \$2029.94

**THIS WEEKEND** DATE: 23 & 24 DECEMBER 2017

DUTY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WELCOMER	Margaret & Mary Sullivan	Alison Thorpe
COMMENTATOR	Trish Simmons	Kim Butler
PROCLAIMER 1	Ruth Marquand	Pat Kenna
PROCLAIMER 2	Peter Dalton	Richard Francis
GIFTS	Scanlon Family	Maureen and Hans van der Ploeg
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Peter Marquand, Ann Lacey, Jennifer Adams	Eleanor Kennedy, Mary Kennedy, Kierce O'Loughlin
LITURGY PREPARATION		Judith O'Sullivan
OVERHEADS	Volunteer please	Sharon de Beer
ALTAR & FLOWERS	Christmas Flowers Margaret & Bernadette	



for  
UNTO  
us a  
child  
is BORN  
isaiah 9:6

**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH NEWS**

*from Fr Marcello, Judith, Ruth & Maree and the  
Parish Pastoral Councils of  
Ballarat North & Wendouree*



**The Giving Tree:** Thank you to those parishioners who have contributed to the Giving Tree. Vinnies appreciate your support and generosity.

**OLHC Cleaning Rosters** for January—May 2018 are now available. Thank you to those who assist.

**Christmas Message from Bishop Paul.** Bishop Paul's Christmas Message is available to view on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Christmas Mass Times:**

<b>Christmas Eve –24th</b>	6:00 pm St Columba's	7:00 pm OLHC	8:00 pm St Columba's
<b>Christmas Day—25th</b>	9:00 am Waubra	9:00 am OLHC	9:00 am St Columba's



**Invitation to the Exodus Annual New Years Day BBQ** Monday 1st January at 12 noon. 8 Primrose Street Wendouree West. No alcohol allowed. A salad would be appreciated.

**Thank You** to the many parishioners who have supported through the work of this parish over the last year. Your faithful service has been welcomed and appreciated.



**New Year's Day Mass** will be celebrated at OLHC at 9:00 am on January 1st.

**The Parish Office** will be closed from Friday December 22nd at 12:30 pm until 9:00 am on Wednesday January 25th. For any urgent matters please contact Fr Marcello on 5339 2302. NB: The message bank will be checked regularly.

<b>Collections:</b>	<b>We thank you for your generous support</b>	
1st Collection (For support of the Clergy in the Diocese)	\$	687
2nd Collection (Last weeks giving for up-keep of Parish)	\$	1,111
	Loose Money	\$ 194



Glory to God  
in the highest,  
and on earth Peace,  
Good Will toward men.  
Luke 2:14

NEXT WEEKEND	6 pm	10:00 am
LEADER of SONG	Corrie Harbour	Margaret White
MINISTER of the WORD	Sue Calistro	Bill Hill
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST	Lia Yu, Des Lloyd, Joyce Jackson + 2 volunteers	Christine Richardson, Peter Briody, Helen Rieniets + 2 volunteers
SACRISTAN		Robyn Clark
COUNTERS		Trish Pora, Catherine Clifford, Brian Ratcliffe
CHURCH CLEANING	Helen Rieniets	
<b>Rural Communities 8:30am</b>	This Weekend — Learmonth	Next Weekend— Lexton
<b>Minister of Word:</b>	Fon Ryan	
<b>Minister of Eucharist :</b>	Bev Hayward	Clare Mullane
<b>Church Cleaning:</b>	Bev Hayward	